(ii) Increase in the total number of inhabited villages from 587556 as per 1991 census to 593732 as per 2001 census; and

(iii) De-electrification of already electrified villages reported by certain States due to natural calamities, theft of the materials and application of new definition.

NTPCS bids under NELP

669. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC proposes to bid under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in order to diversify into the oil and gas sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its existing stake in up-stream LNG both in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC is exploring the possibility of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy-VI (NELP-VI). There are 55 blocks on offer by the Government under NELP-VI. NTPC is in the process of identifying the blocks of interest and suitable technical partner. Earlier, a consortium comprising of NTPC Ltd., Canoro Resources Ltd. and Geo Petrol International has already been allotted an oil exploration block AA-ONN-2003/2 in Arunachal Pradesh under NELP-V. NTPC has 40% stake in this consortium.

(c) At present, NTPC does not have any upstream stake in LNG either in India or abroad.

Electricity to people Below Poverty Line

670. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme to provide electricity to the people living Below the Poverty Line in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on the said scheme;

(d) the number of families likely to be benefited by this scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the amount allocated and released to each State, particularly to Andhra Pradesh in Tenth Five Year Plan under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Central Government has launched a scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) on 4th April, 2005, which *inter alia* provides for 100% capital subsidy for connections to unelectrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) household @ Rs. 1500/- per household as per Kutir Jyoti dispensation.

(c) Rs. 5000 crores have been approved for RGGVX for Tenth Plan.

(d) It is estimated that there are 2.34 crore unelectrified BPL households in the country and the scheme aims at providing free connections to all these families, besides providing connections to Above Poverty Line (APL) households on demand. State-wise BPL connections are based on the proposals received from the implementing agencies. A list of unelectrified BPL households, State-wise, which benefit under the schme as per the DPRs received till 21-7-2006 for 511 districts out of total number of 592 districts is given in the Statement (*See* Below). The coverage of balance unelectrified BPL households depends on further receipt of Detailed Project Reports.

(e) Projects have been sanctioned to the States on *pro rata* basis under RGGVY. Funds under this programme are released in instalments to the States commensurating with the progress reported by them against the sanctioned projects. 4 projects of Andhra Pradesh have been sanctioned so far at the cost of Rs. 160.95 crore covering 653430 rural households of which 523128 are BPL households.

Statement

Number of unelectrified BPL households on the basis on DPRS received for 511 districts out of total number of 592 districts

Sl. No.	State	No. of unelectrified BPL Households
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24,99,517
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59,962
3.	Assam	7,89,939
4.	Bihar	15,30,781
5.	Chhattisgarh	4,68,553
6.	Gujarat	9,55,150
7.	Haryana	2,24,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6,038
9.	J & K	1,34,615
10.	Jharkhand	28,07,794
11.	Karnataka	9,02,373
12.	Kerala	2,,06,741
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19,25,995
14.	Maharashtra	19,10,538
15.	Manipur	26,622
16.	Meghalaya	37,869
17.	Mizoram	27,417
18.	Nagaland	38,440
19.	Orissa	8,87,585
20.	Punjab	1,48,860
21.	Rajasthan	17,57,183
22.	Sikkim	11,458
23.	Tamil Nadu	5,85,015

Sl. No.	State	No. of un-electrified BPL households
24.	Tripura	58,708
25.	Uttar Pradesh	11,20,568
26.	Uttaranchal	28,165
27.	West Bengal	97,847
	TOTAL	1,92,48,092

Source: REC

Criteria for selection on fuel for Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd.

671. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dabhol/Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd. (RGPL) is proposed to be run with Naphtha as fuel;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same in view of high price of petroleum products and Government's decision to discourage Naphtha as fed stock;

(c) whether viability of the RGPL was assessed on the basis of LNG or Naphtha; and

(d) if the basis was LNG, how the revival/restart of the plant was approved without committed LNG sourcing?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the main fuel for the plant which is LNG, is likely to be available only after March 2007, in the interim period, efforts are being made to operate the plant on Naphtha.

(c) The viability of the plant has been assessed on its primary fuel which is LNG/gas.